

## **Geographic Review Panel Form**

**(Note: Review comments will be anonymous, but public.)**

**Proposal number:** I211

**Short Proposal Title:** Bay-Delta Learning Initiative

**Based on the knowledge and experience of the panel members, please add to or comment on the information in the Scientific and Technical or Staff reviews regarding the following:**

**1. Applicability to CALFED ERP Goals and Implementation Plan and CVPIA priorities, and relevance to ERP and CVPIA priorities for your region.**

Next to habitat loss, the introduction of non-native species has rapidly become the greatest threat to the long-term continued existence of our native ecosystems and species. This also applies to the restoration of those systems and functions, of which the restoration can become impossible with the significant presence of non-native species. Consequently, the possible effects of this program are directly related to the maintenance of the implementation of ERP and CVPIA goals.

**2. Linkages/coordination with previously funded projects or other restoration activities in your region.**

This project is related to not only Bay-Delta educational projects, but also to the implementation projects involving the removal of exotic plant species in the Bay-Delta and Lower San Joaquin River areas and inspection of boats for invasive non-native species. There is a clear linkage between the occurrence of non-native species upstream of the Bay-Delta and the prevalence of these species in the Delta.

**3. Feasibility, especially the project's ability to move forward in a timely and successful manner.**

The program appears feasible and that potential is documented by feedback from similar related programs.

**4. Qualifications of the applicants and others involved in implementing the proposed project.**

The applicants appear to be highly qualified.

**5. Local involvement (including environmental compliance).**

This is an agency/non-profit partnership project

**6. Cost.**

The costs seem very reasonable for the number of objectives planned.

**7. Cost sharing.**

Substantial, close to 50% of the total project cost.

**8. Additional comments.**

The proposal has been prepared very clearly and is specifically related to CALFED issues. It also provides documentation of success of related projects and describes the products in some detail.

**Regional Ranking**

**Panel Ranking:** Medium high

**Provide a brief explanation of your ranking**

The implementation of this program is anticipated to have a widely beneficial effect to the Bay-Delta ecosystem and in the San Joaquin River system. The impacts of upstream non-natives can be decimating to downstream removal and control efforts. Consequently, dissemination of these materials to the San Joaquin region as well will be important both from an educational perspective and from an ecological perspective. Successful ecosystem restoration will require the prevention and spreading of many non-native invasive species.